

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04392 251918Z

61

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 A-01 MED-03 INR-07

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R 251735Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7107

INFO DOD/ISA

UNCLAS LA PAZ 4392

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA MILI BL

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR OUT-PATIENT EXAMINATION FOR WIFE BOLIVIAN
MINISTER OF DEFENSE

1. GENERAL RENE BERNAL, BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HAS REQUESTED IN A NOTE JUNE 23 AN EXAMINATION ON AN OUT-PATIENT BASIS FOR HIS WIFE, MRS. BERTA BRITO BERNAL, AT A U.S. MILITARY FACILITY IN THE WASHINGTON AREA. MRS. BERNAL WAS OPERATED ON THREE MONTHS AGO HERE IN LA PAZ FOR PROLAPSUS OF THE UTERUS AND LESIONS OF THE BLADDER. GENERAL BERNAL REPORTS THAT THE OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL BUT THAT HIS WIFE CONTINUES TO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH HER KIDNEYS. HE HAS REQUESTED OUR COOPERATION IN ARRANGING FOR THE CHECK-UP, PREFERABLY AT WALTER REED, WHICH THE GENERAL AND HIS WIFE KNOW QUITE WELL. SHE WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL WITHIN THE FIRST HALF OF JULY.

2. GENERAL BERNAL'S REQUEST IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST. HE OCCUPIES A KEY POSITION WITHIN THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND HAS DEMONSTRATED ON INNUMERABLE OCCASIONS HIS EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR US AND OUR PROGRAMS. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR IN THIS CASE IN THAT IN 1974 GENERAL BERNAL'S ELDEST SON DIED OF A KIDNEY AILMENT. GENERAL BERNAL WISHES TO ALLAY HIS AND HIS WIFE'S WORRIES THAT THE TREATMENT THAT HIS WIFE HAS RECEIVED HERE WAS

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 04392 251918Z

DONE SATISFACTORILY.

3. I URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO FORWARD A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO DOD FOR THE OUT-PATIENT CHECK-UP OF MRS. BERNAL DURING THE TIME PERIOD INDICATED AND IF POSSIBLE AT WALTER REED. GENERAL BERNAL SERVED AS MILITARY ATTACHE OF THE BOLIVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND IS FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCEDURES INVOLVING PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND HOSPITALIZATIONS AT U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES. HE IS PREPARED TO PAY FOR ANY TREATMENT HIS WIFE MAY RECEIVE.

4. GENERAL BERNAL REPORTS THAT THREE OF HIS CHILDREN WILL TRAVEL WITH HIS WIFE AND THAT HE HOPES THAT EACH MIGHT BE GIVEN A ROUTINE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS PORTION OF HIS REQUEST NEED BE MET UNLESS IT IS A RELATIVELY ROUTINE MATTER.
STEDMAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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